

Pawtucket Canal: Guard Locks  
Lowell, Massachusetts  
Middlesex County

HAER No. MA-2A

HAER  
MASS,  
9-LOW,  
9A-

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

PAWTUCKET CANAL: GUARD LOCKS

HAER MA-2A

HAER  
MASS,  
9-LOW,  
9A-

DATE: 1832-1900, in various stages

LOCATION: Across the Pawtucket Canal,  
Lowell, Massachusetts

DESIGNED BY: Unknown

OWNER: Proprietors of Locks and Canals,  
Lowell, Massachusetts

SIGNIFICANCE: The Guard Locks were the first set of locks  
constructed in the Lowell System which are still in  
existence. They have, however, been altered and added  
to since first put into use. The Guard Locks complex  
now includes not only the locks, but also a sluice  
gatehouse dating from 1870, a navigation lock  
gatehouse (1881), and the Great (or Francis) Gate, a  
portcullis-type gate constructed in 1848-50 to keep  
flood waters from entering the canal system.  
Researchers are referred to HAER No. MA-1, Lowell  
Canal System for further information.

TRANSMITTED BY: Monica E. Hawley, Historian, 1983